

March 4, 1974

excess of half a million dollars. It is shown on page 10, it is graphically represented on page 11 with respect to the individual tracks. On page 12 is a summary. Now, the purpose of racing in Nebraska initially was to promote 1) agriculture and 2) horse breeding. Our statute which was written in 1935, back in the days of prohibition prohibits persons from, and this includes organizations, from deriving any profit from racing. This is strictly a non-profit operation. Instead, the funds are used to promote principally county fairs, scholarships and various other charities. I couldn't help but notice very recently a new rescue unit in the City of Omaha, a \$14,000 unit, half of which was paid for by Ak-sar-ben. The individual counties throughout this state have received this past year in excess of \$1,600 each for the operation of their county fairs. This from the Breeders Award resulting from racing. Now, to point out the problem we have and the thing that has created the problem Lincoln has. Last year Atokad out of its short five week racing season very late in the year and inclement weather, still paid to the state \$214,687 in paramutuel tax. Their commissions yielded another \$1,500 in sales tax. License and fees produced another \$1,500 in sales tax, payroll tax in excess of \$6,000, roughly \$1,000 accruing to the state. So that in a small track such as that, over \$200,000 was paid to the State of Nebraska. Additionally, the track paid in excess of \$40,000 to pay the salaries who operate the track. And the track retained less than \$40,000 out of those total funds. In effect, Atokad race track kept the benefits of the concessions. The entire racing benefits accrued to the State of Nebraska. The officials at home have checked with all of the churches in town and this, of course, being the principal source of objection if any. Now, personally as sponsor of the bill, I have had three letters. All of them outstate, away from me. I probably get more letters than that a day on many subjects that might be deemed much less controversial. I know of no real reason why this should not happen. Racing is a spectator sport. It is conducted usually Monday through Saturday, this precludes many people who enjoy racing, who are spectator fans, who would participate, from being able to attend races. Racing on Sunday would give a Saturday-Sunday for those who are otherwise employed or occupied with their business to participate in this spectator sport. I would ask that this bill be advanced from General File.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion on the desk.

CLERK: Motion on the desk. Mr. President, the motion reads to indefinitely postpone LB692. Signed, Senator Waldron.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Waldron.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I move this bill be indefinitely postponed for the purpose I believe it's been well established in the State of Nebraska that we do not need horse racing on Sunday. To be very brief, you look through the booklet that Senator Murphy has distributed, you find out there's only one reason. One reason only that he is asking that this bill be passed. That is to provide extra money to keep the race track in South Sioux City in operation. Now, I think if they cannot promote horse racing enough in the other four or five days that they race during the week, I don't believe the State of Nebraska should be in the position of passing legislation to allow that race track or any other race track in this state to have horse racing on Sunday. For the only purpose,